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Chapter 1 : Operator #5: Invasion of the Crimson Death-Cult (Audiobook) by Curtis Steele | [blog.quintoapp](#)

With World War II looming on the horizon, the Operator #5 novels became a reflection of the times, showcasing American fears of technology and oppression. In Invasion of the Crimson Death Cult, Kasma, a baleful divinity from the wastes of Asia, has laid his blighting curse upon America.

Characters[edit] Within the world of the series, America was still beset by the Great Depression ; Jimmy Christopher was a secret agent , codenamed "Operator No. The enemies were many, but often from countries with fictional names. The colour themes of the enemy nations probably come from War Plan Red where America considered a war against Britain and other countries some years earlier. Christopher often bore two trademarks: He was aided by a number of people in the various wars: Diane Elliot, his girlfriend; Tim Donovan, who quickly grew from a youngster who Christopher had saved from great poverty to a two-fisted young man; Nan Christopher, his twin sister; John Christopher, his father who was a retired operative known as Q-6 who after his last case ended up with a bullet near his heart; Washington Chief of Intelligence Z-7; and friend "Slips" McGuire, among many others, some of whom gave their lives for America. Writers and plotlines[edit] The magazine ran for 48 issues, from April to November One final story was written but never published. Stories were all credited to "Curtis Steele", which was a house name for writers Frederick C. Davis , Emile C. Tepperman , and Wayne Rogers Like other such pulps of the day, there were short backup stories by other authors. Tepperman solved this by writing 13 interconnected novels starting with 26 that make up The Purple Invasion, a series in which the Purple Empire an unnamed European power which is a thinly veiled Nazi Germany conquers the United States after conquering the rest of the world. Jimmy Christopher led the insurgency against them. The saga is often looked upon as the War and Peace of pulps. In a rare bit of continuity for the pulp magazines, America did not find itself fully recovered in the first novel following the end of the Purple Invasion. Instead, America was still reeling from the bloody war, and found itself vulnerable to yet other would-be conquerors. A new serial dealt with the invasion of the US by an oriental power, obviously Japan , led by the "Yellow Vulture. Reprints[edit] In the s, at the height of the camp craze and the success of the Doc Savage reprints with their great James Bama covers , Corinth Press an imprint of soft porn publisher Regency issued eight Operator 5 adventures in paperback. Two later attempts were also made to reprint the stories. New Stories[edit] In , Moonstone began running new licensed stories of Operator 5 as a back-up feature in The Spider comic book, another Popular Publications character. This licenses would later be lost. Currently, as of , Altus Press will be coming out with new Operator 5 works. List of stories[edit] Operator 5 stories, giving volumes, numbers and dates The Masked Invasion: The dread power of darkness is wielded throughout the nation and thousands flee the havoc and ruin that follows the Thirteenth Darkness, which promises ships full of thousands of killers landing in America to take over the country. They have a camouflaged airborne fortress, "The Atlantis" which flies up to 13 miles high and no plane of that time can come within four miles of that height. Safe from attack, they threaten to rain bombs and poison gas on the population unless America surrenders. They also used disguised ships and planes to make it look like America is attacking Britain, Canada, Holland, etc. First appearance of Diane Elliot, who is the sister of agent B An entire nation was paralyzed with panic, not knowing where it would strike next. The Cavern of the Damned: What made congregations vanish, what made men and women hurl themselves into white hot furnaces? Follow Operator 5 into a death trap as he looks for the answers. Master of the Broken Men: The population seethes towards open revolt as the Government of America crumbles before its eyes. Invasion of the Dark Legions: The Green Death Mists: Men, women, children and all living things gasp with seared lungs as they strangle to death from the very air they breathe. After that another shell fell every twelve hours somewhere in America causing more death and destruction. Two mighty powers are blamed and America teeters on the edge of war. League of War Monsters: Behind the carnage, a single man who plans to make himself Dictator of the World. The Army of the Dead: March of the Flame Marauders: Blood Reign of the Dictator: Text includes

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footnotes about actual impeachment proceedings and their outcome. Invasion of the Yellow Warlords: Poison gases, deadly bacteria and thermite bombs, leaving the greatest cities of the west lying in ruins. Legions of the Death-Master: Hosts of the Flaming Death: Operator 5 goes after the Ukrainian ambassador who is his only lead. Invasion of the Crimson Death-Cult: A deadly new weapon in their possessions silently destroys even the tallest of buildings, and entire cities. Attack of the Blizzard-Men: Scourge of the Invisible Death Vol. The man used machines which could open up holes in our atmosphere allowing deadly cosmic rays from space to carry out his threats. Raiders of the Red Death: Captives were sacrificed to ancient gods and America seemed condemned to slavery. War Dogs of the Green Destroyer: With Tim Donovan captured and tortured and Diane doubting her own loyalty, Operator 5 is hampered by the very authorities he is trying to help. His only chance is a one-man attack on his enemies. War Master from the Orient: Where we see America on the twenty second day of an invasion by the Purple Empire under Emperor Maximilian I, who planned a reign of slaughter but was killed by a bomb thrown by Plugger Dugan. This however gave his even more bloodthirsty son, Rudolph a chance to take over in his stead, claiming that Operator 5 had killed Maximillian. As the story starts, the invaders from the Central Empire Germany? This started an ongoing war that was to last till the end of issue 38 as battles were fought through the towns of America, across country, in the sky and at sea. Christopher was a master of disguise and along with his friends would risk great danger to learn secrets from the invaders or to save friends or whole populations being massacred by vile people who chopped heads off, stuck swords into helpless women, bayoneted babies, gassed whole towns and so on. Against them was a brave rag-tag Army of Americans never assisted by European allies who fought as their frontiersmen ancestors had fought a century before them. The Bloody Forty-Five Days: As the women of America fought back, Rudolph released his devastating cholera bombs. When you think things cannot get worse, the story ends with an immense fleet of Purple ships heading towards San Francisco. In issue 2, the best of both worlds. The Siege of the Thousand Patriots: Revolt of the Lost Legions: The Army Without A Country: Worse, Charleston has been shelled, Purple soldiers have landed and all the residents have been put to the sword. The Coming of the Mongol Hordes: The thin line holds against the Mongols but the Purple fleet are now advancing on New York. As the title of the issue tells us, the Purple Emperor Rudolph unleashes the Black Death on American forces as they are harassed by Mongol hordes on land and bombarded from the sea by the Purple fleet. The Purple invasion ends as the defeated force sails off. The series now returns to single-issue wars. Revolt of the Devil-Men: Germany and Italy were defeated but Japan is still to be reckoned with. The Day of the Damned: The Japanese are beaten back and leave America and Mexico as Diane recovers from the fever that almost killed her. The Dawn That Shook the World: When Hell Came to America: Invasion From the Sky: Winged Hordes of the Yellow Vulture: South Americans are persuaded to join the Japs and the issue ends with them overwhelming Texas and Louisiana. War Tanks of the Yellow Vulture: The story ends with the news that many of the steel-producing plants in America have been destroyed, thus depriving the Americans of ammunition. Corpse Cavalry of the Yellow Vulture: When Christopher finally triumphs comes the worst news of all: Washington DC has been totally obliterated. The President, his aides, and John Christopher are all gone. The Army From Underground: January Not published.

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Chapter 2 : Curtis Steele | LibraryThing

And Operator 5, hampered by a superior's short-sightedness, beset on every side with peril and treachery, takes the greatest gamble in his career to keep an army of religious zealots from delivering America into the bondage of an Asiatic Moloch!

This was the age of the pulp magazine, the quintessential literature of the Great Depression and fertile breeding ground of a uniquely American mythology. Digging through this now ancient archive, one finds the fossilized ancestors of the comic book heroes and digital gods who walk the Earth today. There is no mistaking the familial features Batman inherited from The Shadow, or that Superman inherited from Doc Savage. A forebear of James Bond, he even fought a bullion-obsessed villain who wielded a golden gun and tried to rob the Federal gold reserves. Popular Publications used this title to draw attention to what they considered the pressing concerns of the day; the page pulp was a virtual soapbox, a bloody pulpit, a makeshift urban Almanac cum popular gospel that combined espionage, military action, pseudo-science, shady politics, international affairs, sociology, and economics to deliver dire warnings of growing national weakness and lurking sinister adversaries foreign nations, secret societies, and cults intent on destroying the Republic. The authors there were at least 3 who all wrote under the house name of Curtis Steele prescribed ways to avoid the dread terrors painted on its covers and marauding through its pages. Americans were admonished not to exhaust their resources in pointless foreign wars, but rather to fortify their shores against both insidious infiltration and overt attack. They were told to cling to their cultural values including hard work, ingenuity, reason, and science. Many of the issues, which appeared once a month, now seem prophetic. The magazine attuned itself to cultural anxieties about loss of power and prestige, the fears that haunted the collective nightmares of America at the time. Knowing the way that Rome and other great civilizations had been overwhelmed by barbarian hordes, the authors raised the specter of that fate befalling America. This vision of barbarians at the gate is epitomized in the opening scene of Master of the Broken Men, in which primitive tribesmen interrupt the annual grand ball of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Decorated in war-paint, the half-naked party-crashers hurl spears into the throng. The Vice-President, in attendance, faints. Other issues conjured horrific scenarios of barbarians of a different sort, those who have enough science and engineering to construct fantastically powerful weapons, but who use these skills and their products without the refinements of civilization. Davis, who wrote the first twenty issues, took pains to affect an air of scientific legitimacy with extensive footnotes, which are often dry and distracting. But Davis was also capable of whipping technical details into a dark and violent poetry, achieving surrealistic effects that evoke the power of dreams. In The Green Death Mists, men mysteriously choke to death amid inexplicable storms. Planes drop out of sky while the visual field transforms: It spread swiftly to envelope heaven and earth in its mystery. Through it the sun shone blood-red. Jimmy Christopher saw the wings of his plane blending from gray to a pinkish brown! On the wings of the plane the cocarde of the U. A new kind of electrical generator had turned the atmosphere to ozone, which caused the asphyxiation of men and machine, while absorbing the ultra-violet rays of the sunlight, causing all the colors to change. Storms erupted because three measures of oxygen produce only two measures of ozone, creating a vacuum. Operator 5 faced numerous threats associated with exotic religious cults, whose dangers lay less in their theological trespasses, and more in their allure. Invasion of the Crimson Death Cult begins with a thunderstorm over the desert which allowed illegal aliens to cross the Rio Grande. A strange phenomenon causes a paralysis of thought on the part of the onlookers, described in religious terms as being beyond pain and pleasure. The cult of Kosma, a variation of Zoroastrianism, is taking over America. It commands a mysterious force that shatters concrete. Families bankrupt themselves with donations to the cult. Converts are so numerous, Congress is able to pass a law condemning Christianity, and opening the national treasury to the leader of the cult. It turns out that a weaponized version of ultrasonic waves has been causing all this trouble, battering down buildings principally churches, while inducing a

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deeply disoriented effect on the human brain, misinterpreted by the masses as a religious experience. A similar cult threatens in *Cavern of the Damned*, though this one uses a potent drug, Bhang marijuana, instead of sound waves. In *Army of the Dead*, the threat to religious values comes from Science itself: He promises, and he actually gives, a continued, certain life on this earth! *Blood Reign of the Dictator* features a scene in which the newly elected President of the United States repudiates the Constitution at his inauguration, and promises to use unfettered power, which he has just granted himself, to eliminate poverty. The on-looking crowd cheers wildly. Both heroes spoke many languages and both were protean masters of disguise. The Spider was written with tongue thrust proudly into cheek, while Operator 5 relayed its messages with dead-pan earnestness. In Operator 5, no effort was wasted on character development. The novels were peopled with archetypes and personifications, principally motivated by their national allegiances, or their inclination to virtue or vice, like characters in medieval morality plays or folk tales. Jimmy Christopher bore a scar resembling an eagle in flight on the back of one hand, a symbol that dictated every choice he makes. There were strong emotional attachments between Operator 5, his girlfriend, Diane Elliott, his twin sister Nan a perfect doppelganger but for gender, his father John, a retired agent with a bullet lodged near his heart, and his plucky Irish kid sidekick, Tim Donovan. But these bonds served only one structural function: The reprieve came, with biblical conventionality, at the last possible moment. Eventually, it just got to be too much. The demands of keeping a vigil on advancing technology and international politics? Or the outrageous level of intensity the plots had reached? Within months, Tepperman would also replace a superior writer on the Spider, and turn that title into a boring version of itself. The drop in quality was immediately obvious. The five issues that followed were fairly mundane. And then something extraordinary happened. Canada already has been defeated, and Maine has been depopulated by a poison gas. The President has fled to a ramshackle courthouse in Jacksonville, Florida. And so begins the epic generally known as the Purple Invasion, which tore through the next 13 issues. Tepperman took some of the premises and themes of the earlier Davis stories about foreign invasions, and enlarged them into a vast, sprawling post apocalyptic horror novel with a closer kinship to King Stephen than Count Leo. It seemed as if Tepperman awoke from a literary stupor, but apparently only for these issues. But I suspect another Curtis Steele may have been contributing. Tepperman describes the army that rises against the invaders as a parade of iconic images: Perhaps Operator 5 became too much for him as well. In any event, the title was not long for this world. Another Curtis Steele would take up the pen, but America had already been conquered, and recaptured. It was well past the point of being too much. There is much in Operator 5 that will prove distasteful to the modern reader. The rhetoric-driven dialogue often reads as unintended satire, sometimes of the wafer-thin characters and sometimes of the propositions they so fervently promote. In their zealous advocacy of American isolationism, which history would shortly prove utterly wrong, the authors were not above stirring up ethnic and racial biases by resort to crude stereotypes. An editorial from the February issue contained a statement that affects an affable air of tolerance, but is fraught with troubling ambiguities. Or only those of third generation? And what exactly was the criterion for a true American? Even with all of its flaws, Operator 5 remains a unique artifact, infused with raw American folklore and nightmares. It provides iconic glimpses into the terrain of the cultural subconscious at the time of the Great Depression, a time not entirely unlike our own. It is part of the literary heritage, though it is largely unknown today, and would almost certainly be lost entirely, but for a small but steady succession of admirers who look suspiciously like a cult.

Chapter 3 : Curtis Steele (Author of Operator #5)

Kasma, baleful divinity from the wastes of Asia, had laid his blighting curse upon America. All who opposed him came to ghastly ends: amnesia, madness and screaming, agonizing death -- for the cult of Kasma enforced its dread dictate with a new, deadly weapon, unseen, unheard, which razed its.

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Chapter 4 : Operator #5 -- The List Oasis

Thrilling Feature-Length Novel of America's Undercover Ace. Invasion of the Crimson Death Cult. by Frederick C. Davis writing as Curtis Steele. Kasma, baleful divinity from the wastes of Asia, had laid his blighting curse upon America.

Chapter 5 : Milton Bagby - Wikipedia

And Operator 5, hampered by a superior's shortsightedness, beset on every side by peril and treachery, takes the greatest gamble in his career to keep an army of religion-crazed zealots from delivering America into the bondage of an Asiatic Moloch!

Chapter 6 : Operator 5 at The Vintage Library

Kasma, baleful divinity from the wastes of Asia, had laid his blighting curse upon America. All who opposed him came to ghastly ends: amnesia, madness, and screaming, agonized death – for the cult of Kasma enforced its dread dictates with a new, deadly weapon, unseen, unheard, which razed the mightiest buildings, which lay wide regions barren – without man or bird or beast!

Chapter 7 : Stories, Listed by Author

Operator 5: Invasion of the Crimson Death Cult: Reprint by Curtis Steele Kasma, baleful divinity from the wastes of Asia, had laid his blighting curse upon America. All who opposed him came to ghastly ends: amnesia, madness and screaming, agonizing death -- for the cult of Kasma enforced its dread dictate with a new, deadly weapon, unseen.

Chapter 8 : Operator #5: Invasion of the Crimson Death Cult by Curtis Steele

Operator#5 goes after the Ukrainian ambassador who is his only lead. Invasion of the Crimson Death-Cult: (Vol. 5,2; September) The evil cult of Kazma comes from the wastes of Asia to strike all who oppose it with madness, amnesia and agonising death. A deadly new weapon in their possessions silently destroys even the tallest of buildings, and entire cities.

Chapter 9 : For Sale: Audio Book: Operator 5: The Invisible Empire by Curtis Steele

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